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11/20/78

(S) 63

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

November 20, 1978

BB118

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PARTICIPANTS: Father Enzo Giustozze, Catholic Priest,
Theology Professor, and Member of
Permanent Assembly
F.A. Harris, Political Officer,
Amembassy Buenos Aires

PLACE : Harris Residence

SUBJECT : Human Rights Violations

During a tour d'horizon regarding the human rights situation in Argentina, Father Giustozze provided the following information:

Reported Torture

Two members of the Father's parish, Marcelo Arana and Juan Licceri, informed Father Giustozze that they had been abducted in mid-October, interrogated and tortured regarding alleged association with certain Peronist youth groups. According to Arana and Licceri, a friend of theirs, Daniel Marsili was abducted by Security Forces in late September. During Marsili's interrogation, he named Arana, Licceri and another friend as persons who had been associated with him in Peronist political activities prior to March, 1976. The Security Forces acting on this information abducted all three in mid-October. The three were interrogated with electric picana for several days regarding their previous political affiliations. The three maintained that they had not engaged in political activities during several interrogation sessions. Then Daniel Marsili, the original informant, was brought in to confront the persons he had previously named. According to Arana and Licceri, Marsili confessed that his previous statements about Arana's, Licceri's and the other youth's political activity were false and were made to avoid further applications of the picana during his interrogation.

GDS - 12/6/84 (Harris, F. Allen) OR-P

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The four were released with a stern warning not to inform anyone regarding their interrogation. Arana and Licceri, were described by Father Giustozze as physically and mentally "destroyed" by their experiences, called on the priest for aid in leaving the country.

Concentration Camp Report

Father Giustozze referred to the account circulating in human rights circles in Buenos Aires that the twenty-four DAM prisoners who recently appeared in Villa Devoto Prison had been held in a large concentration camp with seven hundred individuals in the Banfield Quilmes area. The Father, whose parish is in that general area, stated that he has received in the last year a number of reports of sightings of irregular prisoners doing manual labor at an air force facility located in the Banfield area near the La Plata River. The air force facility is a large one and prisoners are stated to be held in the restricted area of the repair facility.

(NOTE: The Argentine Air Force operates a regional maintenance depot at Quilmes. The complex consists of a dirt airstrip, several small-to-medium size maintenance buildings, hangars, and associated administrative facilities.)

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